

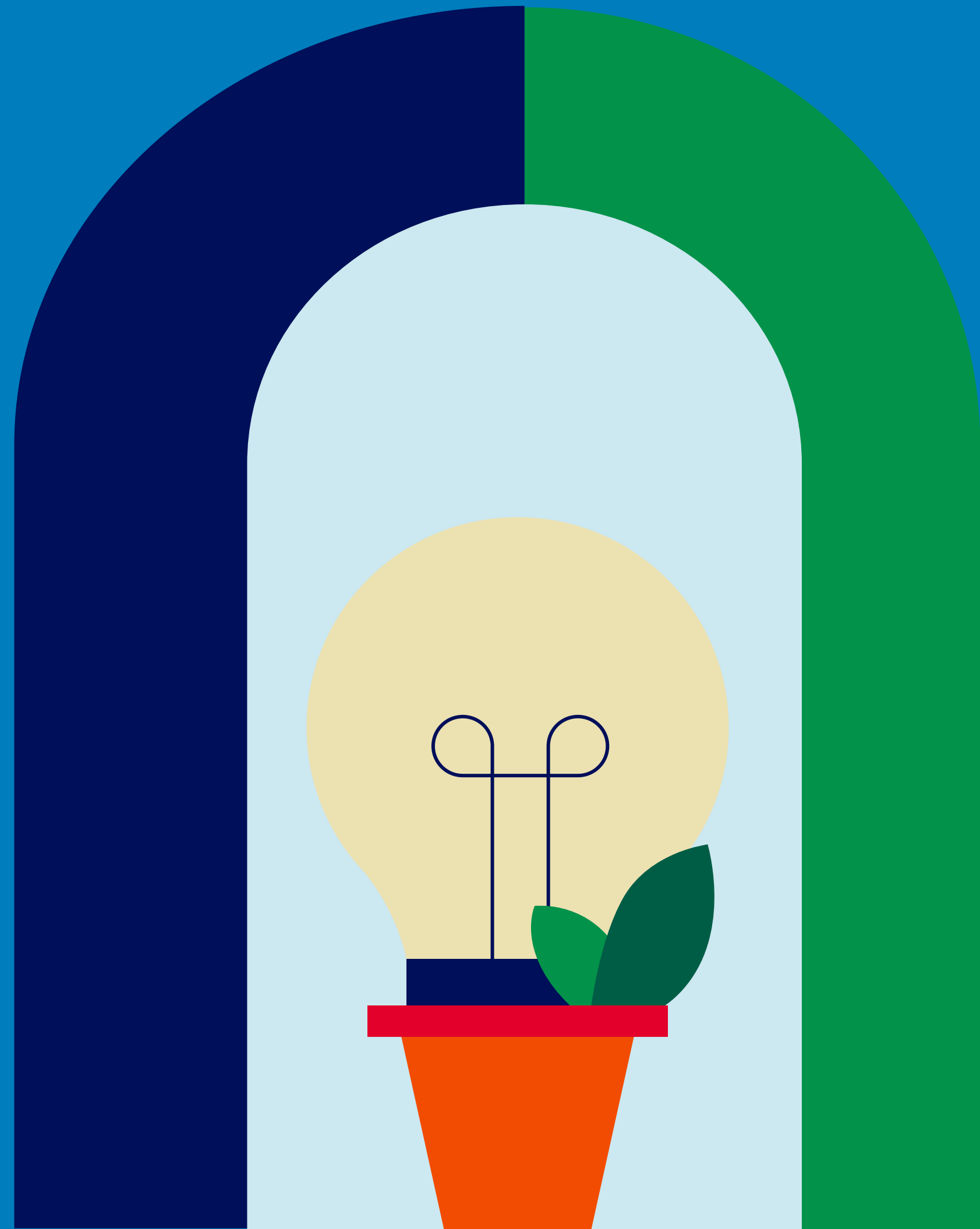


INNOVATION

# Presentation of the WFP Innovation Strategy

Executive Board Meeting

16 June 2025



# Innovation at WFP

To increase efficiency & effectiveness and transform WFP as a whole, WFP is developing the **WFP Innovation Strategy** unlocking new ways to increase our impact.

**Innovation is a priority in WFP**, enabling us to work smarter, respond faster, and reach more people at a pivotal moment for humanitarian and development operations.

***The strategy lays strong focus on strengthening the field.***

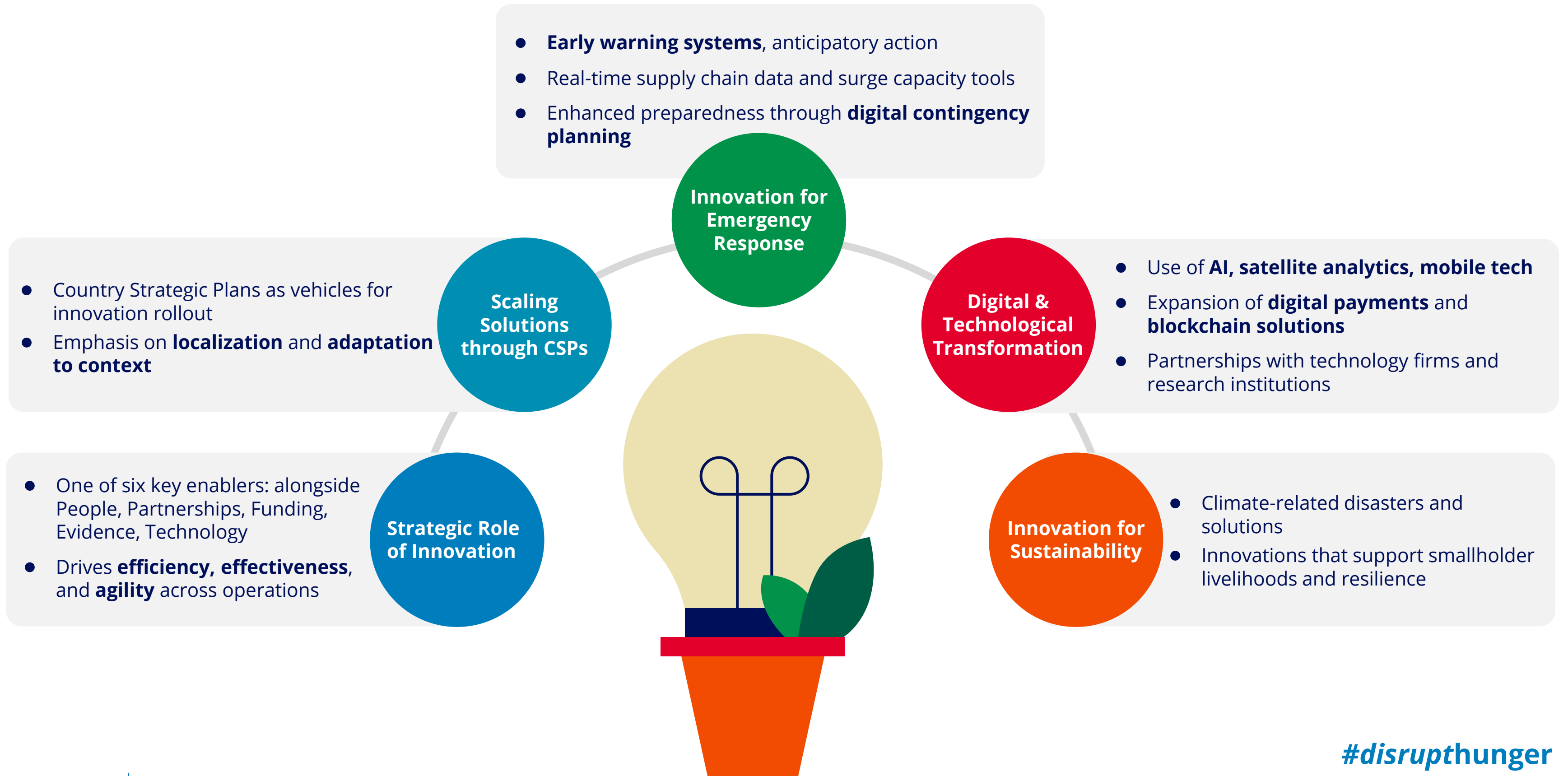


*The priorities are clear: Increase our resources, improve our effectiveness, and scale-up partnerships and innovation to bring modern solutions to those most needed.*

Cindy McCain,  
Executive Director, WFP

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# WFP's Strategic Plan (2022–2025)



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# Developed with the field: A **collective Vision** for Innovation at WFP



## Vision

We catalyze scalable, sustainable innovations and transformative business solutions towards zero hunger and tackle critical humanitarian challenges for the people we serve.

By empowering staff, embracing human centered approaches promoting localization, and in collaboration with other UN actors, public and private sector, we aim to deliver long-term, scalable impact and build resilience in a changing world to save lives in emergencies and sustainably end hunger.

## Foundation for the Vision



The people we serve



Our people & partners



Innovation



Culture



Scale

Source: Global Innovation Workshop [#disrupthunger](#)

# A HISTORY OF INNOVATION

DECADES OF DRIVING INNOVATION FOR IMPACT

From food drops to AI-driven solutions — shaping humanitarian innovation since the 1960s.



Since  
**1960**



**1973** Food Air-drops



**1996** Email via HF radio



**2008** First Cash Based Transfer



**2015** Launch of WFP Innovation Accelerator



**2020** Regional and Country Office Activation

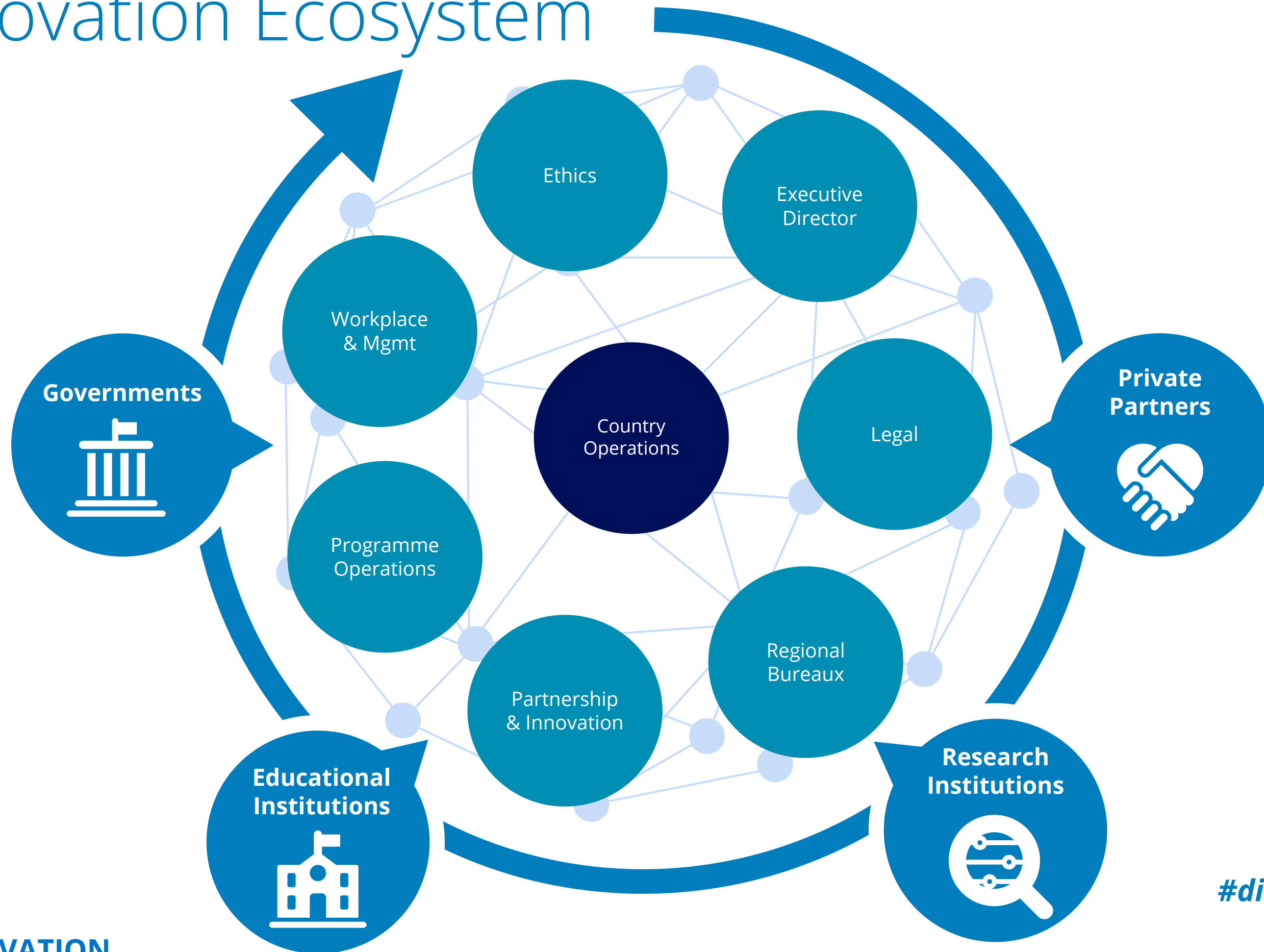


**2025** Launch of WFP Innovation Strategy



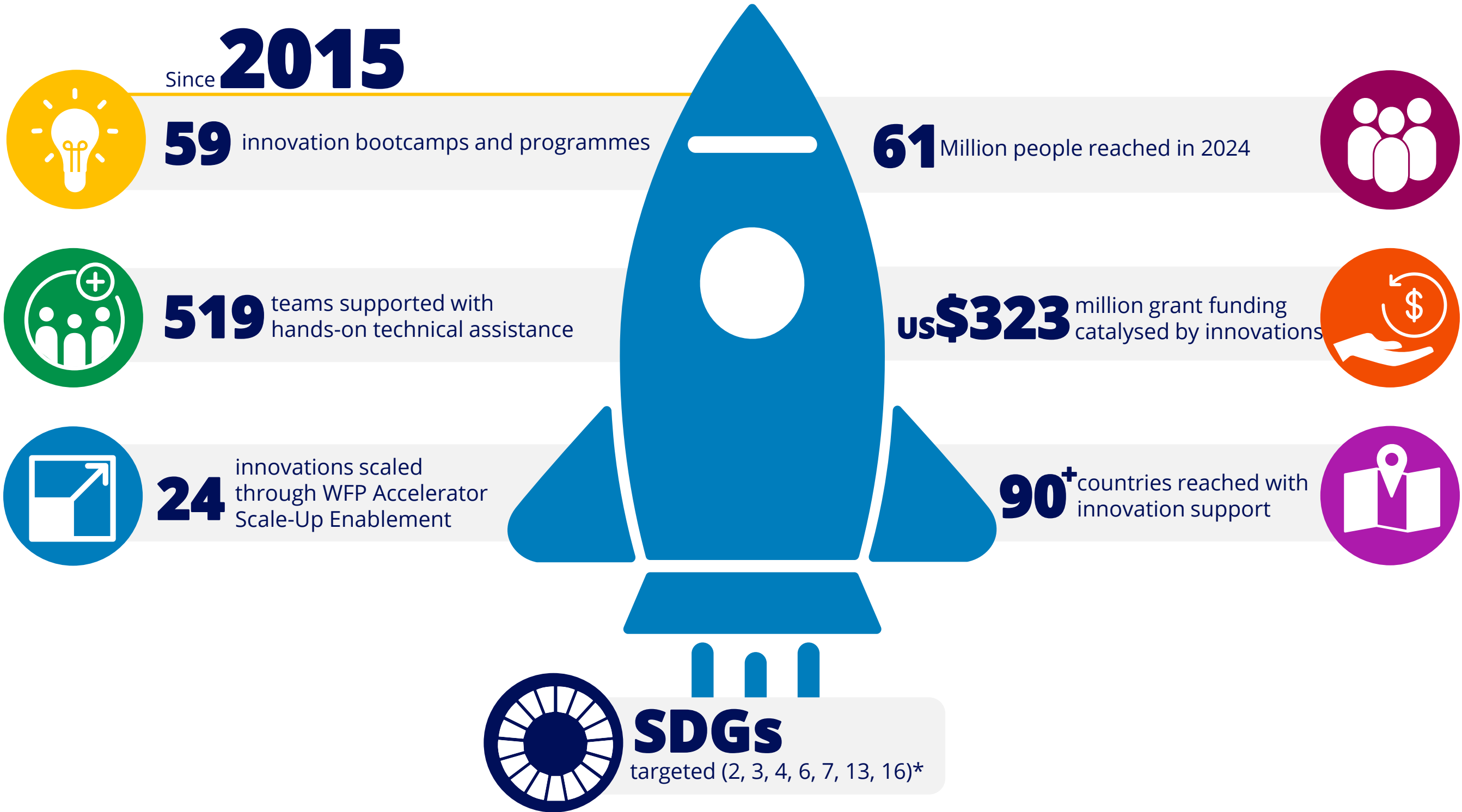
**2025-27** Impact at Scale  
Country Offices drivers of Innovation, AI major enabler

# WFP Innovation Ecosystem



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# Results achieved through Innovation support by the Global Innovation Accelerator



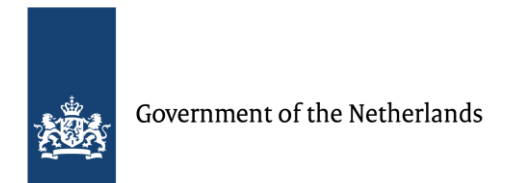
\*2: Zero Hunger, 3: Good Health and Well-being, 4: Quality Education, 5: Gender Equality, 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, 13: Climate Action, 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

# After 10 years, WFP innovations are now being implemented and scaled in a total of 73 countries and territories





# Thank you to our key partners & collaborators



# Scaling innovations Highlights

## CASH-BASED TRANSFERS



### Building Blocks

The world's largest humanitarian application of blockchain technology, is being used by **65 organizations**.

Through duplication prevention **\$200+million** were **saved** between 2022 and 2024 in Ukraine alone across organisations

## SUPPLY CHAIN AND LOGISTICS



### SCOUT - Smarter supply chain planning with AI

SCOUT **saved \$2 million within a year** in West Africa by optimizing sourcing and logistics for sorghum. It **halved crisis response time**.

Estimates of savings of up to \$15M for 2025 and 2026 if scaled.

## SMALLHOLDER FARMERS



### Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA)

618,000 smallholder farmers in Africa have better access to agri-inputs & services and are supported to transition to commercial agriculture. Over **2.7 million Household members** benefit from **improved food security**.

## NUTRITION



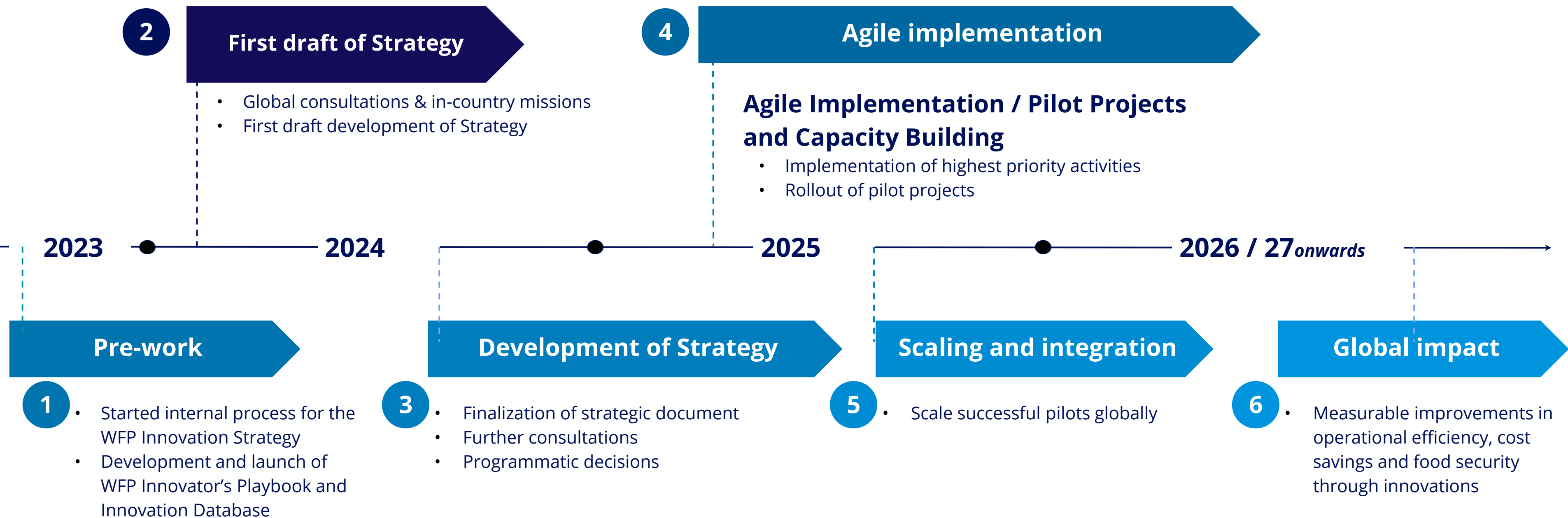
### Sanku - Smart Nutrition Dosifier

Sanku equips local mills with smart machines for vitamin & mineral fortification.

**Cost per person** dropped to **\$0.24 per year**. Over **20 million** people are reached with fortified flour in East Africa.

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# Implementation Roadmap | WFP Innovation Strategy



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# WFP Innovation Strategy status



- **People-Centric Design** of the Strategy
- **WFP Global Workshop, field visits**
- **Extensive Consultations (170+ interviews)** In-Country / Director Consultations / Partners/ Innovation Experts)
- Initial support by **BCG & John Deere, further funding required**
- Agile implementation started, feedback of other strategies and reviews integrated
- Integration of innovation into **WFP Country Strategic Plans**
- **Governance workshops** and **culture-building** measures

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# Strategic enablers will drive innovation across WFP

Vision

At WFP, we innovate to address critical humanitarian & development challenges

Harnessing the power of in-country employees

Focusing on impact at scale across WFP

Building and enabling culture to mobilize all

Countries as **innovation catalysts**

Global **de-blocking** force paving the way

**Cutting-edge tech** for future solutions, e.g., AI

Focused **innovation priorities**

**Scaling** of proven impact across WFP

**Bold spotlighting** of innovation

Leadership **encouraging innovative behavior**

Best-in-class **innovation methodologies** & learnings for all

**Funneling talent** across WFP

Enablers

Amplifying Impact through collaboration

Leading partner in humanitarian & development ecosystem, prioritizing cross-sectoral **collaboration** & **innovative partnerships**

Sustainable funding fundamental for achieving strategy success

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# Future State of WFP after strategy implementation

## Harnessing the Power of In-Country Employees

All **Country Offices fully equipped**, acting as innovation catalysts, actively driving solutions tailored to local needs

**Support structure to kickstart innovation** and global **de-blocking squad** that removes internal obstacles to enable innovation implementation

**Cutting-edge technologies** including **AI innovations**, systematically **integrated into WFP's operations**

## Focusing on Impact at Scale Across WFP

**Clearly defined innovation priorities** guide efforts and investments

**A structured governance framework** enables scaling of proven ventures

**Spotlighting of innovations** accelerates adoption across regions

## Building and enabling a Culture to Mobilize All

**Leadership** at all levels actively **encourages and supports innovation**

**Innovation methodologies and learning opportunities are available to all staff**

**Talent** will be funnelled into **key innovation roles**

## Amplifying Impact through Collaboration

WFP is a **leading partner in humanitarian / development innovation**

**Secure and sustainable funding streams** for long-term support

**Stronger collaboration with private sector, academia and governments** to enhance innovation capacity and adoption of solutions

## Sustainable Funding for Innovation

Innovation is **integrated into broader funding proposals** and partnerships

Dedicated, **long-term funding streams** support innovation infrastructure and initiatives

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## Next Steps

- **Finalise Policy Committee** Consultation
- Launch of the **Executive Director Circular** on Innovation
- **Agile Implementation of Key Pillars** of Innovation Strategy
- Gather further **Partners & Investments** for the Strategy implementation

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